GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4965
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
FREE CALLS AND RENTAL CHARGES
SAMUDRALA VENUGOPAL CHARY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase free calls and reduce rental charges to help poor telephone subscribers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) & (b) The fixation and regulation of tariff is a function of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). For this purpose, TRAI issues Telecom Tariff Order(TTO) from time to time. The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999 as notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recognizes that social objectives of Telecommunication policy are important particularly in relation to those sections of the society for whom affordability is the most important issue. Thus, the TTO has specified monthly rentals, which are different for rural and urban subscribers. Monthly rentals specified in TTO,1999 have been purposely kept below cost for rural and small sized exchanges so that basic telephone services are largely affordable. Presently, Government have no proposal to increase the number of free calls and reduce the rental charges.